

In the claims

1 - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Newly presented) A guide wire comprising:

an elongate wire including a core having an outer surface having an area per unit length, a tubular layer disposed about the core having an inner surface having an area per unit length of no more than the area per unit length of the outer surface of the core, wherein a portion of the layer has a topology selected from the topology of a single-lumen tube or the topology of a single-lumen tube having a slit,

wherein the elongate wire has a first property over a first portion and a second property over a second portion, wherein the first property is different from the second property, and wherein the elongate wire is formed into a coil.

30. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 29, wherein said first and second properties are selected from the group consisting of radiopacity, lubricity, hydrophilicity, hemocompatibility, flexibility, malleability, stiffness, and shape memory.

31. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 29, wherein at least some of said first property is provided by the layer.

32. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 29, wherein the layer is a sleeve.

33. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 32, wherein the sleeve is polymeric.

34. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 29, wherein the layer is a material coating.

35. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 34, wherein the coating comprises a different material than the core.

36. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 29, wherein the elongate wire further comprises a second layer disposed on a portion of the core free from the first layer.

37. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 36, wherein the first layer and the second layer alternate.

38. (Newly presented) The guide wire of claim 29, wherein the first layer is disposed on noncontiguous portions of the core

39. (Newly presented) A guide wire as in claim 29, wherein the first and second properties differ in radiopacity from each other.

40. (Newly presented) A guide wire as in claim 29, wherein the coil is helically disposed about a guide wire distal portion.

41. (Newly presented) A guide wire as in claim 29, wherein the pitch of the coil at a first section is different than the pitch of the coil at a second section.